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Docket No. 500.36322CX1
Serial No. 09/621,054
Office Action Dated: February 23, 2006**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

9. – 10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A discarded article treatment processing method, comprising the steps of:

treating the discarded article on the basis of a selected treatment procedure for segregating harmful or hazardous material to be separated;

monitoring a situation in which said discarded article is being treated and checking whether the relevant work has been completed or will be able to be performed in conformance with the selected treatment procedure through the medium of a detecting means;

reading out, from information concerning said discarded article, alternative treatment procedures serving a same purpose as said selected treatment procedure in case it is decided that said treating situation suffers abnormality;

selecting practicable alternative treatment procedures capable of being carried out by facilities installed in a treatment-entrusted factory which is in charge of treatment of said discarded article;

generating another separation method or procedure for segregating harmful or hazardous material to be separated by cutting said discarded article;

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comparing the practicable alternative treatment procedures and another separation procedure with one another and determining the most inexpensive procedure; and

treating said discarded article on the basis of said determined treatment procedure.

12. (New) A discarded article treatment processing method, comprising the steps of:

treating the discarded article on the basis of a selected treatment procedure for separating parts incapable of being treated by facilities installed in a treatment-entrusted factory which is in charge of treatment of said discarded article;

monitoring a situation in which said discarded article is being treated and checking whether relevant work has been completed or will be able to be performed in conformance with the selected treatment procedure through a medium of a detecting means;

reading out, from information concerning said discarded article, alternative treatment procedures serving for a same purpose as said selected treatment procedure and information concerning facilities required for executing said alternative treatment procedures, in case it is decided that said treating situation suffers abnormality;

selecting alternative treatment procedure capable of being carried out by facilities installed in the treatment-entrusted factory from the information concerning the facilities installed in the treatment-entrusted factory and the information concerning the facilities required for executing said alternative treatment procedures; and

treating said discarded article in accordance with said selected alternative treatment procedure.

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13. (New) A discarded article treatment processing method as set forth in claim 12,

wherein said facility information required for executing said alternative treatment procedure contains information concerning facility operating costs;

said step of selecting said treatment procedure includes the steps of:

determining, arithmetically, overall operating costs involved in carrying out said alternative treatment procedures, respectively; and

selecting an alternative treatment procedure which is lowest with regards to said overall operating cost determined arithmetically.

14. (New) A discarded article treatment processing method, comprising the steps of:

treating the discarded article on the basis of a selected treatment procedure for segregating variable things to be separated;

monitoring situation in which said discarded article is being treated and checking whether relevant work has been completed or will be able to be performed in conformance with the selected treatment procedure through a medium of a detecting means;

reading out, from information concerning said discarded article, alternative treatment procedures serving for a same purpose as said selected treatment procedure in case it is decided that said treating situation suffers abnormality;

comparing information concerning the purchase prices of the variable things with the cost involved in the separation treatments according to said alternative treatment procedures;